



LCDO_Comments, BLM_NM <blm_nm_lcdo_comments@blm.gov>

Copper Flat Mine Draft EIS

1 message

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Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 8:56 AM

To: BLM_NM_LCDO_Comments@blm.gov

Mr. Haywood

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the plan to allow the Copper Flats project to proceed as planned. I am a Sierra County resident and have been for over 6 years. I own property and 2 businesses in Sierra County.

First, let me say how much I appreciate the work of the BLM across the country and particularly the west. Without this organization and its conservation efforts and good stewardship of our natural resources, I fear many mines and other endeavors would have ruined our beautiful deserts and mountains long ago.

In reviewing the draft EIS and the groundwater model report, I have come to the conclusion that the risk to groundwater recharge and drawdown of the aquifer over the 10-12 year period far outweighs the benefits of a handful of jobs that will be created in the region. In such a highly faulted geology, I question any hydrogeologic model unless we have many years of data in pumping scenarios that are monitored all over the region, which we do not.

If we move forward with this project as planned, we risk the Hatch Valley water source, the wells of the Animas Creek ranchers and farmers, and without a better set of data to confirm or deny, we could even risk the hot mineral water resources of T or C. How many livelihoods would be destroyed if any of these risks were manifested? I believe it is more than is worth proceeding with any permits at this time.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Judy Reagan